

Notices.

SIR HUGH ALLAN OF RAVENSCRAG.

We give as a frontispiece to this number a woodcut from an excellent photograph by Inglis, of Sir Hugh Allan, who was created on the 24th July last by Her Majesty's Letters Patent, a Knight of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Royal favors are not bestowed, as a rule, in acknowledgment of personal worth, which it would be a very difficult thing to adjudicate upon, but for service rendered, —and certainly for material service rendered to Her Majesty's dominions, few have a better claim to distinction than the Knight of Ravenscrag. Disinterested goodness will receive its reward where it looks for it; but we learn this lesson from the life of Mr. Allan, that he who develops and concentrates the powers that are within him upon an honorable aim, cannot fail to serve his people while he improves his own position. Few if any have taken a larger part in making Canada the fourth maritime nation in the world, than he who in doing so has grown to be, perhaps, the largest owner of steamships in the world. Our sea-king was born at Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 29th Sept., 1810, and is now a hearty and strong man of 60. He was the son of Captain Alexander Allan, a ship-master who traded for 30 years between the Clyde and Montreal, and in 1824, Captain Allan's family removed to Greenock, and in the Spring of 1825, Hugh, at the age of only 14 years, was entered as a clerk to the eminent and extensive shipping firm of Messrs. Allan, Kerr & Co., of that place. In the spring of 1826 Hugh was sent out to this country. He arrived at Montreal on Sunday the 21st May, 1826, and during the four succeeding years he was clerk in the drygoods establishment of Messrs. Wm. Kerr & Co., St. Paul street, and for some months in 1830 he travelled in the United States and Upper Canada, returning to Scotland, where he spent a year in connection with the shipping, and came back to Montreal

in May 1831, and entered as clerk with Messrs James Millar & Co., then engaged as shipbuilders, shipping and commission merchants. It was here that Mr. Hugh Allan, then in his 21st year, entered upon the pursuit of the business most congenial to him, and after four years' clerkship, he was admitted (1825) a partner of the firm, which after 1839 was continued in the name of Edmonstone & Allan. During the troubles in Canada in 1827-38, Mr Allan turned out and served as a volunteer and attained the rank of Captain. His firm during 1841 were employed by the Governor-General to build several gunboats for the Lakes, and they afterwards built sailing-ships, barges, and the most powerful tug-boats on the St. Lawrence. Mr. Allan, on the 13th September, 1844, was married to Matilda, second daughter of John Smith, Esq., Montreal. About the year 1845, Messrs. Edmonstone & Allan discontinued the shipbuilding business, and confined themselves to the management of their vessels until 1851, when the proposals for a line of screw steamers between the St. Lawrence and Great Britain were negotiated. The further history of Mr. Allan from 1851 to this date is so identified with the progress of the Allan Line of steamships that they cannot well be separated.

Mr. Hugh Allan, in addition to the management of the Ocean Steamship Line, has been the active promoter and president of nearly every company of importance which has been organized in Lower Canada, and which, while being a profitable investment, has also been a great public improvement. In this way, Mr. Allan has been the means of developing the trade, capabilities and resources of Canada to a degree that is really wonderful, and which, at first glance, one can hardly realize.

Ravenscrag, the name of Sir Hugh's paternal residence, is beautifully situated with extensive grounds on the slope of the Mountain, and commands a splendid view of Montreal and the surrounding country. He has also a fine residence and estate on the shores of Lake Memphremagog.

DR. HELLMUTH.

There will appear in the October number of the *NEW DOMINION MONTHLY* an excellent likeness of the Coadjutor Bishop of Huron, with a sketch of his life and the patriotic services he has rendered to the cause of education in Canada.